Closure of fair price shops in Madhya Pradesh

2297. SHRI IQBAL SINGH:
SHRI SURESH PACHOURI:

Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that recently many Fair Price Shops under the Public Distribution System were cancelled in Jabalpur and other parts of Madhya Pradesh for not lifting the quota of and non-distribution of essential commodities to the ration cards holders;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof;

(c) what other action was taken against such erring F.P.Ss owners in the State; and

(d) what action Government have taken to check such tactics by the F.P.S. owners in the State in future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED): (a) to (d) The information is being obtained from Madhya Pradesh Government and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Number of cases pending before consumer fora in the country

2298. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the number of consumer fora existing in the country State-wise and Union territory-wise;

(b) the number of cases filed and cleared during the last two years in such fora;

(c) the number of cases pending before the consumer fora State-wise and Union territory-wise at the end of December, 1992;

(d) whether Government propose to increase the number of fora to facilitate early clearance of cases; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI KAMALUDDN AHMED): (a) As per information available, 30, State Commissions (excluding the State of Meghalaya) are functioning in the country. Similarly, 447 District Forums are functioning in the country namely—Andhra Pradesh-23, Arunachal Pradesh-11, Assam-23, Gujarat-20, Bihar-39, Goa12, Haryana-16, Himachal Pradesh-12, Karnataka-20, Kerala-14, Madhya Pradesh-45, Maharashtra-31, Manipur-8, Mizoram-3, Nagaland-7, Orissa-13, Punjab-12, Rajasthan-30, Sikkim-4, Tamil Nadu-21, Tripura-3, Uttar Pradesh-63, West Bengal-17, A & N Islands-2, Chandigarh-1, D & N Haveli-1, Delhi-2, Daman & Diu-2, Lakshdweep-1, Pondicherry-1. In addition 5 District Forums have been notified in the Meghalaya. Approval has been given for setting up of three District Forums in the newly formed districts of Arunachal Pradesh (1) and Punjab (2) The Consumer Protection Act, 1986 does not extend to the State of Jammu & Kashmir.

(b) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

(c) As per information available as on 31.12.1992. the number of cases pending before the State Com-

missions and District Forums in some of the State|UTs are as follows:

Name of the State	Cases including appeals pending in State Commissions	Cases pending District Forums
1. Andhra Pradesh	1565	10,085
2. Arunachal Pradesh	3	13
3. Madhya Pradesh	186	4,284
4. Punjab	206	4,468
5. Sikkim	1	0
6. A&N Islands	..	9
7. Delhi	847	4,509
8. Lakshadweep	0	2

(d) and (e) The Working Group which was constituted for suggesting suitable amendments to make the Consumer Protection Act more effective, has recommended to set up more than one District Forum in a district. The recommendation is under consideration of the Government.

Consumer Redressal Fora

2299. SHRI KAMAL MORARKA: Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether all the State Governments have set up the Consumer Redressal fora in the country;

(b) if not, the names of the states which do not have such forum;

(c) the amount of money granted for consumer welfare fund during the last three years;

(d) what effective measures Government have taken to ensure proper utilisation of the fund for the protection of the interests of consumers;

(e) whether the implementation of the consumer protection is reviewed from time to time; and

(f) if so, when was the last review conducted and what are the details of such review?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED): (a) and (b) All States|UTs except Meghalaya have set up the consumer redressal fora. In Meghalaya also, the State Commission and 5 District Forums have been notified but they have not started functioning.

(c) and (d) The Consumer Welfare Fund Rules came into force from 25th November 1992. As per information available, more than Rs. 2 crores have since been credited to the Fund. The Government has constituted a Working Group under the aegis of the Central Consumer Protection Council to suggest suitable guidelines to utilise the Consumer Welfare Fund.